



## National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

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# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending August 6, 2006

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*This report can be found on the Internet at*

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_and\\_Condition/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp)

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** Scorching heat again swept across Pennsylvania as temperatures in some parts of the state hit triple digits last week. Overall, 6 days were suitable for fieldwork. The weather proved to have both positive and negative effects with the agricultural community. Farmers got a chance to catch up on haymaking and grain harvesting. However, the heat is hurting livestock, especially cattle and poultry. The oat crop progressed rapidly in the sunshine; however, the corn is starting to suffer from drought stress. Apples and peaches continue to be picked, and potato harvesting also began last week. Potato producers are seeing several problems with potato leafhoppers. Principal farm activities included repairing equipment, spreading manure, baling hay, harvesting oats, and picking peaches, apples, sweet corn, and other small fruits and vegetables.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 6, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
8	26	58	8

**Crops:** Corn continues to flourish, even though the heat is adding stress to the crop. Currently, 89 percent of the crop is in tassel, in comparison with 91 percent last year and 77 percent for the 5-year average. Thirty-five percent of the corn is in the dough stage and 10 percent has now entered the dent stage. Both figures are 5 percent ahead of their respective 5-year averages. Corn condition has only slightly decreased, as 81 percent of the crop is in either good or excellent condition. Soybean and oat conditions were very similar to each other last week. Eighty percent of the soybeans and 79 percent of the oats are in good or excellent condition. Similar to corn progress, all of the oat stages are now well ahead of the normal pace. Last week's weather provided an excellent opportunity for oats to ripen and for farmers to continue harvesting. Ninety-five percent of the crop is yellow and 83 percent is ripe. Over a quarter of the crop was combined last week, as 57 percent of the oats are now harvested. Potato harvesting has begun, as 6 percent of the potatoes have been removed from the ground. This is slightly behind last year's figure of 8 percent and the 5-year average of 9 percent. Farmers made great strides in hay production last week, since there was barely any rain to prevent hay from drying. Currently, farmers have 93 percent of their second cutting and 43 percent of their third cutting alfalfa made. Second cutting is 7 percent ahead of the 5-year average and third cutting is the same as the average, although both figures are behind last year's respective figures. Second cutting timothy/clover also progressed rapidly, as 69 percent of the hay has been made. This number is 27 percent ahead of the 5-year average. The quality of hay made has significantly improved from the previous week, with last week's conditions reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 29 percent excellent.

Peach harvesting continues to lag the normal pace. Producers have 39 percent of their peaches harvested, compared to 50 percent last year and

47 percent for the 5-year average. However, apple harvesting is 7 percent ahead of the average as 20 percent of the apples are harvested. Both peach and apple conditions remained steady from the previous week, with no significant changes. Ninety-five percent of the peaches and 89 percent of the apples are rated as good or excellent.

**Livestock:** Unlike last week, pasture condition has declined. The lack of moisture is making pasture regrowth impractical. Reporters also claim that the heat is having extremely negative effects on livestock. Several claim that milk production is decreasing and poultry are suffering. Pasture condition was reported as the following: 3 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

**U.S. as of August 1, 2006:** For the third straight week, above-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation. Moderate to heavy precipitation fell across the eastern half of the Nation, maintaining adequate soil moisture in the Ohio Valley and Northeast. However, soil moisture was still lacking across the Southeast and Mississippi Delta, despite moderate rainfall in most areas.

**Corn:** Ninety-one percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, the same as last year but 9 percentage points ahead of normal. Silking progressed rapidly in the northern Corn Belt and northern Great Plains. Meanwhile, acreage at or beyond the dough stage advanced to 25 percent, compared with 24 percent last year and 21 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was slightly behind normal in the Ohio Valley but ahead of normal elsewhere. Denting, at 5 percent, was 1 point ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. This stage had not yet begun in the northern Corn Belt and Ohio.

**Soybeans:** Acreage blooming or beyond advanced to 87 percent, compared with 89 percent last year and 81 percent for the 5-year average. Blooming was at or ahead of normal in all states, except Indiana. Fifty-three percent of the acreage was setting pods, 1 point ahead of last year and 12 points ahead of normal. Progress was behind normal in Illinois and Indiana but ahead of normal elsewhere.

**Winter Wheat:** Growers had harvested 91 percent of their crop, compared with 88 percent last year and 87 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest was complete or nearly complete in most states, except in the Pacific Northwest, where less than half of the acreage had been reaped.

**Small Grains:** Ninety-six percent of the barley acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, compared with 99 percent last year and 98 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest, at 17 percent complete, was 11 points ahead of last year and 12 points ahead of normal.

**Harvest of the Nation's oat crop** advanced to 55 percent complete, compared with 46 percent last year and 38 percent for the 5-year average. Growers in the western Corn Belt harvested their crop rapidly. Harvest trailed behind normal in the Ohio Valley but was ahead of normal in all other areas

# Weather Data For Week Ending August 6, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 6, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	93	60	79	8	0.13	2	13.12	-1.79	57	1,792	238	2,943
Franklin	94	60	78	9	2.05	5	22.44	4.79	63	1,703	226	2,895
Meadville	90	60	77	9	0.65	2	18.80	1.81	55	1,674	322	2,839
Mercer	93	58	78	9	3.74	2	25.35	8.69	60	1,615	150	2,795
Springboro	91	56	76	7	0.45	2	22.77	7.81	60	1,512	-43	2,640
Warren	92	60	77	8	0.16	1	24.07	6.76	59	1,573	134	2,730
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	88	51	74	9	0.36	1	18.12	0.56	60	1,286	235	2,382
Emporium	93	57	77	11	0.08	1	21.71	3.81	59	1,610	434	2,804
Kane	91	52	73	9	0.07	1	18.75	1.13	52	1,176	139	2,264
Laporte	88	55	75	5	0.67	2	24.72	8.34	64	1,419	-60	2,556
Lock Haven	95	59	79	9	0.00	0	19.12	3.09	52	1,851	284	3,076
Port Allegany	91	56	74	9	0.39	1	17.65	0.92	54	1,377	211	2,498
Renovo	94	50	77	7	0.05	1	18.31	2.28	60	1,707	140	2,925
Ridgway	90	54	74	8	0.11	1	19.65	1.75	60	1,381	205	2,528
Stevenson Dam	93	59	77	11	0.22	1	16.35	-1.55	53	1,692	516	2,904
Towanda	95	56	77	8	0.39	1	17.16	3.59	55	1,736	246	2,915
Wellsboro	89	53	74	8	0.09	1	15.95	2.24	55	1,363	252	2,483
Williamsport	96	59	80	8	0.36	1	16.27	0.22	52	1,991	256	3,216
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	93	52	76	8	0.03	1	24.88	9.60	46	1,535	271	2,677
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	94	57	78	7	0.35	1	17.69	2.64	52	1,851	201	3,054
Susquehanna	94	55	76	10	0.97	1	24.89	8.51	61	1,596	381	2,753
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	92	59	77	8	0.99	3	18.58	2.04	58	1,659	126	2,862
New Castle	94	61	80	10	1.32	3	20.85	5.62	57	1,843	302	3,057
Slippery Rock	93	59	77	9	2.27	3	23.11	6.97	65	1,715	326	2,918
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	91	57	77	6	0.02	1	14.42	-0.50	51	1,764	113	2,983
DuBois	88	57	75	7	0.34	3	19.06	2.46	67	1,542	112	2,712
Lewistown	95	61	80	8	0.19	1	17.65	1.54	50	1,950	141	3,183
Middletown	96	65	83	8	0.00	0	19.07	3.47	44	2,303	259	3,553
Prince Gallitzi	91	52	76	8	0.07	2	18.09	-0.98	53	1,468	155	2,636
Selinsgrove	96	60	80	9	0.00	0	21.18	5.14	50	1,920	227	3,145
State College	93	62	79	9	0.23	1	13.68	-1.15	50	1,906	273	3,136
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	96	61	80	7	0.50	2	22.44	6.05	53	2,091	219	3,325
Lehighton	95	59	79	6	0.24	1	21.41	4.96	58	1,889	85	3,104
Matamoras	95	56	77	6	0.09	1	19.40	2.31	56	1,670	37	2,845
Mt_Pocono	90	53	75	9	0.42	3	25.02	7.16	62	1,510	401	2,659
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	91	64	79	8	2.05	2	16.69	0.86	55	1,972	313	3,211
Derry	92	60	77	7	0.45	2	19.95	3.62	54	1,669	114	2,876
Myersdale	87	52	73	3	0.35	3	18.27	0.21	63	1,266	-247	2,403
Mount Pleasant	91	56	77	9	0.45	2	16.99	-1.24	55	1,652	274	2,854
Pittsburgh Intl	91	60	79	7	0.74	2	14.82	-0.04	51	1,909	173	3,136
Connellsville	94	60	79	7	0.36	4	17.07	-0.53	66	1,896	128	3,122
Waynesburg	92	57	78	8	0.18	1	14.15	-2.09	50	1,727	123	2,947
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	96	62	82	8	0.00	0	19.69	5.38	51	2,094	90	3,341
Everett	87	54	74	3	0.00	0	14.56	0.11	55	1,417	-209	2,634
Hanover	97	59	81	7	0.00	0	15.60	1.29	48	2,079	75	3,320
Harrisburg_AP	97	64	82	8	0.00	0	18.44	2.84	49	2,251	200	3,501
South Mountain	91	55	77	6	0.00	0	22.91	7.99	53	1,643	-1	2,850
York	96	57	80	6	0.00	0	12.83	-3.02	46	2,059	64	3,294
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	96	63	82	9	0.12	2	24.16	8.06	52	2,129	346	3,367
Hamburg	98	62	81	10	0.39	2	22.48	3.43	58	2,170	544	3,406
West_Chester	97	60	81	7	0.07	1	20.78	2.91	45	2,014	31	3,246
Lancaster	96	63	81	7	0.00	0	23.82	7.17	53	2,157	281	3,401
Neshaminy Falls	96	61	81	8	0.00	0	22.04	3.21	47	2,028	164	3,268
New Holland	98	64	82	9	0.00	0	17.54	0.89	51	2,186	310	3,426
Philadelphia	98	70	85	9	0.00	0	18.07	1.90	41	2,522	370	3,789
Philadelphia NE	98	67	84	8	0.00	0	20.29	4.12	47	2,493	341	3,755
Reading	97	62	81	8	0.22	1	19.15	1.56	48	2,227	386	3,468
Valley Forge Na	98	58	81	6	0.08	1	22.96	6.15	50	2,171	72	3,413
Willow Grove	96	65	82	10	0.00	0	17.40	-1.43	43	2,271	407	3,523

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA)** - Adams County has been extremely hot, humid, and dry this week. Daytime temps were in the high 90's and nighttime temperatures didn't dip below 80 degrees.

Corn is starting to get drought stress and leaves are starting to roll due to high temps and lack of moisture. If we get some rainfall here in the next day or so we should be ok; but the corn is in a critical stage that needs moisture to develop full ears. Soybeans are looking good. However, double cropped or late soybeans definitely need some moisture to get them going. Oats has been harvested and hay continues to be made.

Apples are looking good with the early varieties being harvested. Peaches are looking good and are being harvested as well. Most varieties are ahead of schedule and are being harvested due to hot temperatures making fruit ripen earlier. Plums and apricots are being harvested. Sweet corn seems to be plentiful in our county but some earlier sweet corn had to be replanted, and then it was too wet so stands aren't the best. Other vegetables are being harvested also.

Overall, Adams County crops are doing well through these hot temps and high humidity days. However, we need a break in the temperatures and also need some rainfall soon to continue crop development throughout harvest.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - More dry weather this week. With a high in the upper 90's and a low near 80, most corn growth stopped. Heat has taken its toll on the milk production as well. The week was spent mostly trying to stay cool and to keep the livestock cool.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - We had hot humid weather with a couple of showers during the week. Oat harvesting is in full swing. Hay making continues and the barley and wheat crop should all be harvested.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Top soil moisture is low; we need some showers. No rain during the week.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O. Yocum** - It's getting dry at a critical period for corn and soybeans.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - It was a busy week for producers. Making hay, harvesting oats, and getting ready for the upcoming fairs made for a productive week.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT)** - Extremely hot and dry conditions have pushed corn development. Corn silage harvest will soon be getting started. Potato leafhoppers are still a problem in many locations.

**FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts (EXT)** - Very dry; rain showers have been spotty.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - The corn crop in the past three weeks, due to weather conditions, has really put some height on. All though compared to last year, corn this year has the makings of another record yield for this area. Most of the vegetables crops have damage due to weather conditions. Oat yields are being reported between 45 and 74 bushels per acre. Barley yields are coming in between 14 and 70 bushels per acre. The hay crop got off to a slow start. Quality of the first cutting was on the poor end, but second and third crop was good to excellent with good yields.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler** - Hot weather is a double edge sword; good for maturing fruit and crops but miserable for livestock, poultry and "the farmer".

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT)** - We would really benefit from an inch of rain.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS)** - A small portion of the county got a thunder storm earlier in the week. The heat humidity was high last week. It will not be long before corn silage is ready for harvest.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - The very hot week stressed crops, animals and people. Soil is beginning to dry out and some corn is beginning to curl in the heat of the day. Corn and soybeans are doing well. We are hoping for some rain today (Monday) before the next forecasted dry spell.

**PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz (EXT)** - The lack of rain this week, along with the high temperatures, have rapidly degraded pasture conditions. Corn is showing drought stress, especially on shallow topsoil and shale soils. Corn is well pollinated and ear development is at the blister stage.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The weather, being hot and sunny, allowed for the making of excellent quality second and third cutting dry hay, while putting very little stress on the corn and soybeans due to the rainfall levels of recent weeks. The early corn and soybeans are progressing very nicely with very little signs of disease. The main activities for the week were baling hay and straw, harvesting small grains, and mowing along field boundaries.

**TIoga COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - Another hot and humid week. We had a little relief on Thursday evening when a thunder storm blew through, with about a half inch of rain for the week. Lots of haylage was made; very little dry made. Oats were combined on our farm this week.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS)** - Producers tell me that there is a great variation in the quality of their corn crop within each field.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Temperatures in the 90's slowed crop growth and could have adversely affected some corn pollination. The hot, dry conditions were excellent for oats and hay harvesting. A few areas missed the rain from the cold front passage on Thursday and are now a little on the dry side.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 6, 2006**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	89	91	77
Corn, dough	35	33	30
Corn, dent	10	5	5
Oats, turning yellow	95	97	91
Oats, ripe	83	80	70
Oats, harvested	57	58	45
Potatoes, harvested	6	8	9
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	93	100	86
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	43	64	43
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	69	57	42
Peaches, harvested	39	50	47
Apples, harvested	20	19	13

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 6, 2006**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	3	16	53	28
Oats	0	2	19	61	18
Soybeans	0	1	19	62	18
Quality of hay made	1	3	19	48	29
Pasture	3	13	33	40	11
Peaches	0	1	4	65	30
Apples	0	0	11	60	29

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